

# NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



**Interpretation Number:** 04-02

**Date:** 01 February 2007

**Pamphlet Number:** NFPA 101, 2000 ed.

**Section(s):** 18,19.2.3.3, 7.1.10.1

**Comments:**

This interpretation is consistent with the current CMS policy regarding corridor impediments

**Question:** Are wheeled carts, (i.e., housekeeping, isolation, crash) permitted to be placed in exit access corridors of health care occupancies?

**Response:** Yes, under specific circumstances.

Carts that are considered "in use" are permitted to be in corridors. A cart meets the definition of in use when it is assigned to a staff member and does not sit idle for more than 30 minutes at a time. There is no limit to the size, construction or materials placed on a cart that is in use.

Certain high priority carts such as isolation and crash carts are permitted in the corridor when not in use when no option for storage off of the corridor is available. The following conditions for these carts must be met:

1. The carts shall be of noncombustible construction (steel, hard plastic) with compartments or drawers where combustible materials such as gloves, gowns, alcohol-based hand gel or other hazardous items can be stored.
2. The carts shall not obstruct the corridor by more than three feet, or one-half the corridor width, whichever is less.
3. Only one crash cart is permitted in a corridor in each wing or section of the building where they might be needed. Isolations carts can only be placed in a corridor when needed for a specific patient.

Whenever carts are used in corridors the facility emergency response plan shall address their use and the method used for removing them in an emergency.

The authority having jurisdiction will verify acceptance of cart placement as each facility has unique building configuration and needs.

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 02/01/07

**Title:** John E. Falgione, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal

